

## Anniversary Celebration Saturday, May 13 9am-4pm Migratory Bird Day

### Schedule of Events

- 9:00 am Warbler Walk (30 min)
- 10:00 am Warbler Walk (30 min)
- 11:00 am Naturescaping for Birds (30 min)
- 11:30 am Jeop-Birdy (30 min)
- 1:00 pm **Nature Center Anniversary:** the Year in Review (30 min)
- 2:00 pm Bird Calls with Ralph Duren (1 hr)
- 3:00 pm Warbler Walk (30 min)
- 3:00 pm Naturescaping for Birds (30 min)
- 3:30 pm Jeop-Birdy (30 min)

### Events Throughout the Day

- Activities for all ages (Bird Olympics, Aiming to Save, Binocular Basics, more)
- Bird conservation displays
- Bird banding demonstrations
- Free Migratory Bird Day posters (*while supplies last*)
- The Educator's Nest
- Photography Display featuring area art students



# Tupelo Times

APRIL and MAY 2006 VOL. 2, NO. 2

The Newsletter of the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center

## OUR FIRST YEAR

I can't believe it's almost time to celebrate our first anniversary. Since our opening, over 60,000 visitors have come through the doors of the Conservation Campus Nature Center. Many first year challenges and accomplishments have made time fly by. The facility is impressive, but our mission is more about the people who enter than the building itself. Our mission is "to connect people with the land by involving them in conservation activities and issues through experience and education." Our focus is on the rich natural and cultural history of southeast Missouri.

Before the nature center doors opened, a new staff was assembled who promptly turned their talents to the development and implementation of a broad spectrum of regular conservation education programs. Three to six year olds can participate in the Mudpuppies program designed for sensory exploration and awareness. For children seven to eleven, a conservation kids' club called Snappers offers hands-on activities that are the catalyst for exploration, observation, and skill development. The Racers program provides teens from twelve to seventeen activities and guidance to become Missouri's next generation of conservationists. To encourage life-long learning, the Adults Only program offers outdoor skills education and engages adults in local conservation service projects. And, beginning this spring, there is a new program called Tadpoles for ages zero through two years with their favorite adult (see the calendar of events for dates and times).

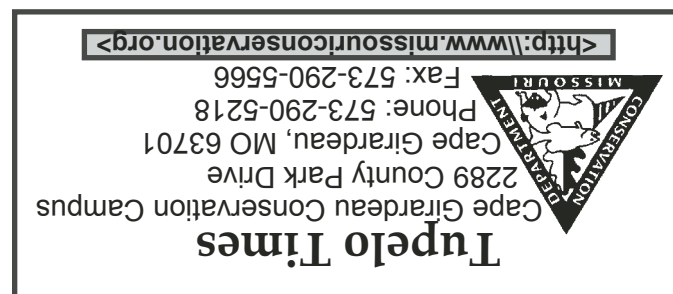
In addition to the regular programming, special events provide another way to connect people with the land. During this first year, the nature center hosted two special events for families: the Hummingbird Festival in July, and National Hunting and Fishing Day in September. There were many special evening programs including: An Evening with Singing Insects, Spectacular Spiders, Owl Prowl, and Froggy Friday Night. Kids up to fifteen years old can hone their fishing skills in the kid's only

pond, those eleven and older can enroll in a hunter education course. A monthly series of workshops for private landowners showcases practices to improve wildlife habitat on their property. And if that's not enough, programs and exhibits by local artists, singers, photographers, storytellers, and magicians were offered throughout the year.

Many children visit the nature center for the first time on field trips with a school or youth group. Teachers and youth leaders choose from various topics in conservation education that meet state Grade Level Expectations with indoor and outdoor components. Conservation education resource materials, lesson plans, and thematic Discovery Trunks extend learning and are available to educators free of charge.

As our programming and visitation expands, so do our staffing needs. This past November our first class of enthusiastic volunteers completed training and graduated. These talented and generous individuals consistently donate their time to help with many projects and activities. The circulation of our *Tupelo Times* newsletter is now at 5,000. Our events and programs are now listed on the Conservation Department's website ([www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org)). Our Nature Shop is open for purchase of conserv

- April Dozier



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## Volunteer Corner

Ever since the volunteer program lifted off the ground last winter, I've been amazed by the involvement and dedication of this group of people. Whether it's filling educator bags with curriculum resources for the many teachers who come through here, cutting out craft and activity items for children's programming, filling bird feeders for our daily feathered visitors, or managing hundreds of children in the exhibit gallery between programs, these people do whatever needs to be done. Their expertise shines through as well in the variety of tasks they perform. Kelly Hughes' artistic talent shows in the program props she has painted. Wonderful computer presentations and photo directories now exist thanks to the photography and design by Charlie Wilson. Denise Dowling has become the volunteer timekeeper, using software to manage and report the many volunteer hours. Our stacks of books have now become an efficient library thanks to the professional skills of Paula Ann Gresham. Fred Bollinger, who has assisted with many of our exhibits, will conduct flint knapping demonstrations April 8th and 9th. I look forward to many more ways these devoted volunteers will use their talents, skills, and time to help the nature center meet its mission of connecting people with the land.

--Steven Juhlin

**Volunteer Milestones: 100 Hours of Service**

Charlie Wilson • Fred Bollinger • Kelly Hughes

## Thank You

### Donations of Time, Material, and Service

**Bill Woodall:** Praying mantis and tiger moth pictures

**Jerry Hampton:** Purple Martin gourds

**Larry Hendershott:** Microscope

**Kenneth L. Buchheit:** Black bear skin and skull

**James W. Ressel:** Bee hive pictures and Cape Girardeau County fossils

**Brian Alworth:** Falling Spring Mill photograph

*Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm and is closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.*

*Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.*

*The Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.*

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape)

## Educators' Niche

Please come in and visit our Educator Resource Room. There is a lot of great information and resources that are available to take with you...for free. We have department videos available for screening. These videos can then be borrowed free of charge by using the Media Loan List. We will also have activities and lesson plans on hand that you can take. These activities cover a wide range of subjects and grade levels. No matter what you're teaching you can find something here to accentuate your curriculum. We are constantly adding to and developing our Educator Resource Room. Please come in, have a look, and help yourself to conservation information and lesson plans. Learn about Discovery Trunks and preview videos that can be borrowed. Just ask at the front desk and the Educator Resource Room will be at your disposal.

## The Nature Shop

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

Special monthly discounts ... **20% Off**  
(Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)

### APRIL

#### A Paddler's Guide to Missouri

This book is designed to make river trips more pleasant, convenient and safe for the the family. Missouri has many miles of rivers, and floating them is a peaceful way to enjoy the outdoors. Everything from planning your trip to the equipment you will need is in this handy guide.



Discounted price:  
\$4.80 plus tax

### MAY

#### Missouri Bird Calls CD

This CD is designed to help you identify 192 birds by their calls, which are arranged in ten categories. You'll learn to discern nocturnal birds and our feathered friends of the grasslands, grain fields, town and yards, shrubby fields, forest edge and interior, wooded streams and lakes and ponds.



Discounted price:  
\$6.40 plus tax



Do you enjoy looking at litter or knowing that wildlife is injured every day by the trash that surrounds us? Of course not! Here are some opportunities to get involved for the sake of wildlife and to eliminate eyesores. These two city-wide clean-up days are set aside to pick up trash, plant flowers, mulch beds, and paint. Call for more information on getting involved: **Cape Girardeau**, April 22, 335-5421; **Jackson**, April 29, 204-8848. T-shirts and lunch are provided for participants.

You can also recycle your used fishing line and empty spools at the nature center to keep them from endangering wildlife. Please use recycle container near the front door.

Come visit the nature center and pick up a free "No MORE Trash" bag filled with goodies.

Celebrate **Earth Day** all month long!







## Snappers



### Spring Cleaning

**Saturday, April 1**  
**10am-2pm**

Earth Day is upon us and is an excellent time to improve our area. The nature center has been open almost a year and there are always projects to finish. Prepare for a full day of activities including flowerbed maintenance, trash removal and fun with friends and family. Bring a parent, wear sturdy shoes, gloves, and dress according to the weather. Lunch will be provided. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11.

*Registration required, begins March 15*

### 2 Naturalist's Notebook

**Sunday, 2-3pm**

On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail. Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. Families. No registration required.



### 4 Doves

**Tuesday, 7-9pm**

Come share the evening with us as we look at one of the most sought after game in the state of Missouri. Jim Schultz, Private Land Conservationist, will begin with some interesting tidbits of information regarding the history of dove hunting in Missouri. From there he will go through the life history of the Morning dove. The meat and potatoes of the presentation will be a discussion about the habitat requirements and management techniques used to enhance your property for Morning doves. The evening will conclude with a bird ID session and general information on Eurasian and White-Winged doves. Ages 12 and up. No registration required.



### 7 Make a Longbow

**Friday, 7-9pm**  
**Saturday, 8am-6pm**  
**Sunday, 8am-4pm**

How would you like to make your own archery equipment? Are you good with your hands and patient to boot? Then this class will appeal to you. The class will detail history of archery in North America, bow design and performance. You will complete the workshop with firsthand experience making a hickory longbow and string, along with a list of references and resources for going on your own. Rudimentary woodworking knowledge desirable. Ages 16-adult.

*Registration required, begins March 15*

(\$25.00 deposit to be refunded upon attendance)

### Featured Films

shown in the auditorium  
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center  
front desk to find out  
what videos will be  
shown this month.



# April Events

## REGISTRATION

There are many programs that require registration. Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after April 1 for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.



## Mudpuppies

### Trash Treasures

**Saturday, April 8**  
**10am or 1pm**  
**Tuesday, April 18**  
**10am or 1pm**

Earth Day is everyday! Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 but we are getting an early start. We will discuss ways that we can all be good conservationists, go outside to enjoy some of the sounds and sights of spring's arrival, and make some recycled crafts to take home. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month.

*Registration required, begins April 1*

### 8 Flint Knapping

**Saturday, 10am-4pm**  
**Sunday, Noon-4pm**



Come watch Volunteer Naturalist Fred Bolinger as he turns rocks into arrowheads. Learn about the ancient art of flint knapping and watch as he demonstrates tools that were used by Native Americans to hunt and fish. Families. No registration required.

### 11 Tree Pest Clinic

**Tuesday, 4-6pm**

Do your trees have disease or insect problems? Bring infected twigs (at least 15" long), branches, or leaves to Forestry Regional Supervisor Joe Garvey for identification and a solution to your tree problems. Stop by the nature center anytime from 4-6pm. Families. No registration required.

### 13 Conservation Cafe

**Thursday, 7-8pm**



Local Photographer Tom Neumeyer will be featured at the nature center's Conservation Cafe. Listen as he tells the stories behind his art and have the opportunity to ask questions about his work. Refreshments will be provided. Ages 18-adult.

*Registration required, begins April 1*

## Temporary Display

Stop by the nature center's "Auditorium Gallery" during the month of April to view the close-up flower portraits of local photographer Tom Neumeyer.

### 23 Wildflower Walk

**Sunday, 1-3:30pm**

Spring wildflowers are a spectacular sight. These short-lived blooms are a sign that spring is truly here! As we walk along White Oak Trace, we will be searching for these early wildflowers. Spring beauties, May apple, trillium, and dogwood are just a few of the plants that will be in bloom at this time. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a wildflower field guide if you have one, and be ready to ask questions. Ages 10-adult.

*Registration required, begins April 1*

### 27 The Fishin' Magicians

**Thursday, 7-8pm**



The Fishin' Magicians are back to bring fishing fun and learning together. They will make you laugh, gasp with amazement, and want to go fishing. You'll be delighted when they pull any number of tricks from their fishing vests. Don't miss their wonderful fish shtick humor. Ages 7 and up.

*Registration required, begins April 1*

## Tadpoles



### Sensing Spring

**Saturday, April 29**  
**10-11am**

See the bright greens on the trees. Feel the fresh air blowing through your hair. Smell the fragrance of a new flower. Hear a songbird singing sweetly. Get a taste of nature in all its glory. Bring your favorite tadpole and discover the wonders that await him/her in this new season of life! **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult.

*Registration required, begins April 1*

### 29 "Adults Only"

**Spring Wildflower Hike**  
**Saturday, 9am-2pm**

Many spring wildflowers will be in full bloom. Join us as we hike Pickle Springs Natural Area and look for wild pink azalea or some of Missouri's wild orchids. This hike is approximately 2 miles over moderate terrain passing by sparkling streams and spectacular sandstone bluffs. Pack a lunch, bring water, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Ages 18-adult.

*Registration required, begins April 1*

## RACERS

### Bashin' Trash

**Sunday, April 30**  
**2-5:30pm**

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: BASH TRASH! The Racers will meet at 2 p.m. to conquer the trash war in areas near the Nature Center (along Hwy 61 and along the White Oak Trace trail system). Come on your own or bring your friends to form your own team of trash bashers! Your hard work will make a difference in the appearance of the area, as well as the lives of the area wildlife! We'll cap off the day with a Bashin' Trash picnic where you'll receive a free t-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the team who collects the most trash. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17.

*Registration required, begins April 1*





# May Events

## REGISTRATION

There are many programs that require registration. Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after May 1 for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

## 2 Quail-Quail- Where are the Quail?

*How to improve your farm for Quail.*  
**Tuesday, 7-9pm**

Quail and other grassland bird species are at an all time low. Come learn why this well-loved song bird and game species is in peril. The presentation will include notes on quail biology, habitat requirements and management practices landowners can implement to improve populations on their land. Private Land Conservationist, Larry Heggemann, will present the program. Ages 12 and up. No registration required.



## Mudpuppies

## Buzzy Bees

**Saturday, May 6**  
**10am or 1pm**  
**Tuesday, May 16**  
**10am or 1pm**

Spring is here and our honeybee hive is a buzz with activity. We will visit the observation hive to find the queen bee and watch the activity of all the worker bees. Then we will all listen to a bee dance song as we make a bee craft to take home. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month.

*Registration required, begins May 1*

## RACERS



## Just Hike It!

**Saturday, May 6**  
**1-5pm**

Take a walk on the wild side by Shark's Fin and Cat's Paw! Hike along the magnificent Tiemann Shut-ins, where igneous rocks have been carved by the St. Francis River. You'll have the opportunity to view local wildlife, wildflowers, and the Class III rapids used in previous Olympic kayak racing trials. If we're lucky, we may even see an Eastern Collared Lizard or other animals specific to the nearby glades. We'll leave the Nature Center at 1 p.m. to travel to Millstream Gardens Conservation Area near Fredericktown. A snack will be provided. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17.

*Registration required, begins May 1*

## 7 Lewis & Clark



*To the Great Western Ocean & Back*  
**Sunday, 2-3pm**

Discover what it was like to be part of Lewis & Clark's expedition. George Drouillard, portrayed by historic interpreter Grady Manus, makes a visit to the nature center. As hunter and interpreter for the Corps of Discovery, Drouillard had a very significant role in the Great American Journey. **Please note** (This program is in place of Naturalist's Notebook this month). Ages 7 and up.

*Registration required, begins May 1*

## Snappers



## For the Birds

**Tuesday, May 9**  
**6:30-8:00pm**

Spring is the peak of migratory bird travels in the area and the nature center is a wonderful place to view them. Observe some of these species from our wildlife viewing station and learn how to identify many different types. Discover the importance of these birds and see what we can do to help insure their survival. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11.

*Registration required, begins May 1*

## 13 Migratory Bird Day

**Saturday, 9am-4pm**

Millions of birds are making their way north this weekend and you get to "join" them in their journey. Migratory birds are birds of two worlds who face incredible challenges throughout the Americas. International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated around the globe this weekend and we are joining in with activities for all ages: bird impersonator Ralph Duren, bird banding demonstrations, warbler walks, tips on helping these migrants, door prizes, and more. While you're here, we'll celebrate your nature center's first anniversary with cake and a tribute to the first year. Families. No registration required.



## 13 Calls of the Wild

**Saturday, 2-3pm**

Help us celebrate our one-year anniversary by listening to the "Calls of the Wild" with Ralph Duren. He imitates over a hundred wild animal sounds from toads and frogs of Missouri, Midwest songbirds, migratory and native game animals to wolves, elk, moose, and mountain lions. His passion for hunting and calling is contagious. Families. No registration required.

## 18 Tree Pest Clinic

**Thursday, 4-6pm**

Do your trees have disease or insect problems? Bring infected twigs (at least 15" long), branches, or leaves to Urban Forester Rocky Hayes for identification and a solution to your tree problems. Stop by the nature center anytime from 4-6pm. Families. No registration required.

## 21 Lewis & Clark

*Meet York*

**Sunday, 2-3pm**



Captain William Clark of the Corps of Discovery is known for his extraordinary journey west. Less known is the story of York, his slave, who accompanied him on the trip. Willie Lyles, retired conservation agent and outdoor skills specialist, has researched York and will weave a tale of natural resource concepts and history into his storytelling. He was selected as the official York by the discovery expedition out of St. Louis involved in recreating the Lewis & Clark expedition. Ages 7 and up.

*Registration required, begins April 15*

## Tadpoles



## Clues on Critters

**Saturday, May 27**  
**10-11am**

What was that? Who lived there? What does it eat? Find out the answers to these questions with your favorite tadpole. Discover those critters that live in your own backyard and all around us. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult.

*Registration required, begins May 1*

## June 2 WildHeart in concert!

**Friday, 7-8pm**

Help us welcome back to the stage the creators of "Wild Heart" and "Critter Rock." Jan and George Syrgos combine the power and influence of melody with a child's fascination for nature. They capture the audience with crazy actions, colorful media, and lively lyrics to upbeat tunes while exploring wildlife and their habitats. Don't miss these Emmy Award winning artists. Families.

*Registration required, begins May 16*

Coming  
in  
June



Jan and George Syrgos and their new CD "WildHeart"

## Featured Films

shown in the auditorium  
Sundays from 3-4pm



Call the nature center  
front desk to find out  
what videos will be  
shown this month.

## Coming in June...

National Trails Day Hike. June 3, 9-Noon  
Hikes on White Oak Trace, Cypress Crossing, and Maple Hollow. We'll also be picking up trash. Bring your family and friends. No registration required.